

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2015

Present:

Councillor P F Bateman

Councillor Mrs K P Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs L Harwood

Councillor W McIntyre

Councillor Mrs J Norman

Councillor J Sandwith

Councillor C Woodman

Clerk: P Bramley

Minute No. 141

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Ardron, M T Ditchburn, Ms M M Gainford, A Grey, C J Holding, Mrs J King, J Musgrave & Mrs C Tibble.

Minute No. 142

Declarations of Interest

None received.

Minute No. 143

Requests for Dispensations

None received.

Minute No. 144

Minutes of Meeting held on 15 December 2015

Resolved that the minutes of the Meeting held on 15 December 2014 be accepted and signed as a correct record.

Minute No. 145

Police Report

PCSO Laura Crears, replacement PCSO for Hannah Donaughee, sent an update for the previous month. The report advised of a window being broken on Barncroft Avenue & a car being damaged on Kennedy Road; both acts were thought to be targeted incidents. PCSO Crears advised that she would be policing dangerous parking outside Seaton Academy with a zero tolerance approach, & that parking issues around schools would be a police force wide operation from February, when she would be seeking to have Seaton designated a 'hot spot'. She advised that she was aware of anti-social behaviour around the shops, library & Firth House, & although her investigations had confirmed that it wasn't a current problem, she would be monitoring the situation. Councillors had no issues to report.

Resolved that the report be noted & that action to tackle the problems identified be welcomed.

Minute No. 146

Progress Reports

1) Clerk

Resolved that the progress report be noted.

2) Village Hall

Resolved that annual report be noted.

Minute No. 147

Allotments

Members received an update on the position concerning the Council's provision of allotments. It was noted that no response had been received from the owners of the Lowca Lane allotment site in respect of the Council's request to meet to discuss a private sale of the site to the Parish Council, & so, in accordance with Minute 129(2), the Council would pursue a compulsory acquisition on the basis of the arrangements set out in Minute 129(4)(d).

Resolved that the position be noted and confirmed.

Minute No. 148

Public Questions

- 1) Mr P Haughin asked, on behalf of the Seaton Allotment & Gardeners' Society, when the funding, referred to in the arrangements set out in Minute 129(4)(d), would be required. He was advised that Allerdale Borough Council would provide the Parish Council with details in due course.

Minute No. 149

County & District Councillors' Reports

No reports received.

Minute No. 150

Jackson Street Playing Field Development

Resolved that, following a site meeting with & guidance received from Allerdale Borough Council Parks & Open Spaces Manager, the Council seek a meeting with Groundwork North East & Cumbria to explore the possibility of & arrangements for support in consulting with Seaton children on options for play equipment & obtaining supporting funding.

Minute No. 151

Christmas Lights

Resolved that the Council seek to make further improvements to Christmas lighting in Seaton & that the possibility of an illuminated Seaton Christmas sign be investigated.

Minute No. 152

Planning Issues

Resolved: that the following planning application decisions made by Allerdale Borough Council be noted:

Reference No:	2/2014/0812
Applicant:	Mr & Mrs A Begley
Proposal:	Conversion of existing garage to kitchen & erection of new garage
Location:	1 Ling Beck View, Seaton

APPROVED

Minute No. 153

Accounts – January 2015

Resolved that the accounts listed in the schedule totalling £1,115.00 be agreed for payment.

Minute No. 154

Precept 2015/16

Members received a report advising that, further to Minute 119, Allerdale Borough Council had notified the Council that its local council tax reduction scheme, (LCTRS), grant for 2015/16 would be £2,938.98, which was a 30% reduction on the grant received in 2014/15. In addition, the Secretary of State had issued a statement to Parliament seeking views on whether 'the highest spending parishes should be subject to the same referendum principle as the rest of local government'. Whilst it was considered that Seaton Parish Council would be unlikely to fall under the heading 'highest spending parishes', & so not affected by any decision taken as a result of that statement, the impact of the reduction in LCTRS grant meant that, for the budget to remain at the level agreed on by the Council at its meeting held on 17 November 2014, the precept would need to increase by £1,260 to £49,360, resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 7.9% or, alternatively, if the Council wished to hold to the agreed level of increase of 5%, it would need to reduce the draft budget by £1,260, to keep the draft precept figure at the level agreed on 17 November of £48,100.

Resolved that the budget position agreed on 17 November be held & that the 2015/16 precept be set at £49,360.

Minute No. 155

Finance Report

Members received a report showing actual expenditure & income for the period 1 April to 31 December 2014, in comparison to budget.

Resolved that the report be agreed.

Minute No. 156

Correspondence

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

Resolved that:

- 1) In response to Allerdale Borough Council's 2015/16 budget consultation, the Council express concerns that local council tax reduction grant for local councils had been reduced by 30% over the previous two years, whilst new annual budget funding of some £70,000, a similar amount, had been made available for the seven largest towns in the district, an apparent diversion of funding by Allerdale to the largest local councils from the smaller ones.
- 2) Chairman Mrs K P Birkett be nominated for selection by CALC for attendance at the Royal Garden Parties in 2015.
- 3) No comments be offered on Allerdale Borough Council's consultation on its 2015 to 2019 Council Plan.
- 4) In response to Allerdale Borough Council's Local Plan (Part 2) Site Allocations Issues & Options Additional Sites submitted consultation, the Council express its concerns at the site access plans to option 2/WOR/081/R at Low Seaton, noting that a similar proposal for part of the same piece of land was considered & rejected some years previously.
- 5) The Council support the concerns expressed by Seaton Junior School Governing Body at the proposed continued use of the school as a polling station by Allerdale Borough Council, noting that the stated problems that such an arrangement caused & the possible alternatives put forward, as well as comments on the impact of postal voting on polling station voter numbers, had previously been offered by the Parish Council to Allerdale, following its consultation on electoral arrangements, (Minute 110/13(8) refers).
- 6) The offer of funding support of up to £1,000 by Mr D Williamson of Seaton towards introduction of Jackson Street Playing Field equipment for older children be welcomed.
- 7) The offer of a site meeting by Sustrans Area Manager Nikki Wingfield to review the possible options for addressing the flooding problem on the cycle track near to Seaton shops be welcomed.

Minute No. 157

Councillors' Reports

- 1) It was noted that the darkness of the village, due to the large number of street lights which weren't functioning, was causing concern for residents. It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council again, advising, in addition, that lamps 487 & 488 on Calva Brow were out of action.
- 2) It was reported that work had commenced on improvements at Brick Dubs, including removal of larger gorse bushes, formation of walkways & the placement of concrete sections to form a low level pond.
- 3) It was noted that pavements in the Coronation Avenue, the poor condition of which had been reported to Cumbria County Council in May 2014, had still not been attended to. It was agreed to contact Cumbria County Council again.

- 4) The continued problem of dog fouling on the cycleway in Seaton, particularly between Seaton Library & the Scout Hut, was reported. It was agreed to consider the problem further at the next meeting.
- 5) Concern was expressed at Cumbria Police not taking action with vehicles parking on double yellow lines & at the problems being caused by a large white van parked on the main road at High Seaton.

Minute No. 158

Next Meeting

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 16 February 2015 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8.25 pm.